

The Hour

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CHRISTIAN FRONT AND NEW TACTICS

"More Effective" Method To Replace Street Meetings

Secretly meeting on May 13 in the back of a store near 54th Street and 9th Avenue, twenty Christian Front leaders discussed a new method for spreading anti-Semitism in the city of New York. Briefly, the technique is this: Christian Fronters will be assigned to busy street corners, where they will strike up conversations -- between themselves and with innocent bystanders -- about the Jews and their "role" in the present war. The regular street meetings formerly held by the Christian Front will be relegated to a secondary importance while the new method of fomenting racial hatred is tried out.

According to those who proposed the new technique, it has certain distinct advantages. In the first place the very anonymity of the method offers benefits. At old Christian Front street meetings, the speakers were immediately labeled for what they were; in the new procedure, onlookers will believe that the vociferous anti-Semite is simply another well-meaning citizen expressing his opinion. In the second place this method will be harder to combat than were the former tactics. Pro-democratic groups, which previously held counter-meetings in order to offset the Front propaganda, will now be unable to anticipate where and when the Fronters will be spreading their "gospel." In other words, the Fronters will be appearing in small numbers at unexpected but strategic points throughout the city. A third advantage is that the Christian Front itself cannot be held responsible for the public disturbances that will be the hoped-for result of the arguments started. (And this is an important consideration, in view of the fact that the Christian Front has been advised by influential parties not to openly cause too much trouble until the present Federal trial of their fellows is concluded.)

It was pointed out that a successful test case has already been made of the technique. On Sunday, the day previous to the secret gathering, a selected pair of Front adherents experimented at Times Square. The results obtained were "highly satisfactory." And so it was decided to put into effect immediately the new method, on a wide scale. "Discussions" are to be started within the next few days in and around Times Square, at 98th Street and Broadway, at Willis Avenue and 59th, and at other advantageous points around the city.

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NAZI PARACHUTISTS DESCRIBED IN THE HOUR MORE THAN A YEAR AGO

"Fifth Column" in Belgium Was Discussed Seven Months Back

More than a year ago The Hour published the earliest revelations to appear in this country with regard to the training and formation of parachute troops by the Nazis. In our very first issue, dated April 30, 1939, as the third paragraph of a page entitled "Latest and Least Known," we wrote:

"What was the mysterious company of soldiers marching past Hitler in the birthday-review of April 20? Their steel helmets were flat, their green-gray uniforms were baggy, there were parachutes strapped to their backs, and their appearance caused a sensation. The answer is this: Copying a practice first tried out in the Soviet Russian army, Nazi Germany has a special regiment of 'air-infantry.' The soldiers are trained to jump off airplanes and parachute down, ready to go into action. The regiment is made up of volunteers 17-23 years old who sign up for a two-year term and may then reenlist for ten years more. These men must remain unmarried and be of superior physique. Their unit has been in existence for two years, and its first assignment was to capture Prague. The assignment was, however, canceled because of the heavy snow on the day of Prague's seizure."

The additional information we had at the time but did not use for reasons of space was that the Nazis expected to expand the regiment to a division's strength, also that the volunteers came from the ranks of regular infantry in search of thrills and because they and members of their immediate families were promised special food and other privileges.

Hitler's "Trojan Horse" in Belgium

On October 14, 1939, a full month before the first scare of the impending invasion of the Low Countries by Hitler's armies, The Hour published a news-story entitled "Hitler Eyes Belgium -- Considers Flemings as Germans, and Walloons as 'Artificially Frenchified'-- Pro-Nazi Organizations in Belgium Prepare Ground for Possible Invasion." Using data relayed to us by our confidential West European sources, we wrote:

"We are informed of the intensification noticeable in the work of the National-socialistische Vlaamsche Arbeiderpartij, whose organization follows the Berlin models and desires, and whose main claim is of Flanders as 'niederdeutscher Lebensraum' or 'low-German living space.' These Nazi spokesmen in Belgium are saying that not only the Flemish provinces but also the districts of French-speaking Walloons by right should belong to Germany. The Walloons, they say, are Moselle Franks who centuries back were 'artificially Frenchified.' Belgium is already divided into Nazi 'Gaue' or districts. There is, for instance, a 'Gau Brabant' headed by the 'Gauleiter' van Brusselen."

Giving the names of other Nazi and pro-Nazi organizations and leaders in Belgium, we concluded: "The way of Hitler into Belgium is paved."

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FASCIST BOOM IN PHILADELPHIA

Nazis Revive Activities

PHILADELPHIA, May 16 (Special to The Hour)--During the last few months fascist activity in Philadelphia has been definitely on the increase. The distribution of anti-Semitic literature, the holding of Nazi and "anti-Communist" meetings, the radio and newspaper publicity given Hitler-propaganda films -- all bear witness to the fact that a drive is taking place to rejuvenate the fascist movement in this city.

It appears from this drive that the work formerly handled by the German-American Bund is, for various strategic reasons, being taken over by the Kyffhauser Bund (League of German War Veterans in the United States). The chairman of this latter organization in Philadelphia is Herr Karl Schumacher, whose Nazi sympathies are well known to the community. Cooperating with the Kyffhauser Bund is the Quartet Club (Haus des Deutschtums) and the German-American Vocational League. On April 13 an article appeared in the Philadelphia Herald, a German publication, stating the aims of the Kyffhauser Bund. The article, which was not exactly marked by subtlety, observed: "At present we are doing everything in our power to band together all Germans in this country to help our old homeland Germany in its present strife and struggles ... Every German man can become a member of the K. B. who pledges himself to the aims and principles of the K. B. under the leadership of the German Front Soldiers for the Rights of Germany."

Nazi Propaganda Films

Every Saturday or Sunday German films are now being shown at the Moose Hall. The program ordinarily consists of a brief comedy or romance, followed by a newsreel and a short propaganda film about Germany today. Almost all the films are UFA productions. The showings are publicized with advertisements in the Philadelphia Herald (and occasionally in the Weekruf) and with announcements over the German radio hours. The German population of Philadelphia is urged to attend these "timely and necessary meetings." But the rather meager attendance at the showings of these films indicates that the German population is not very enthusiastic about the idea.

Typical of the activity in the present fascist campaign was "The Fatherland Memorial Meeting" held on Saturday, April 27, at the Philadelphia Rifle Club. The hall was decorated with American and Nazi flags hung side by side. A picture of Hitler graced the stage, and under it hung a banner with the slogan -- "Ein Volk -- Ein Reich -- Ein Fuehrer." The Star Spangled Banner and the Horst Wessel were played. Most notable among the speakers was Philadelphia's new German consul, Erich Windels. Greeting the audience with a Nazi salute, he burst into an ecstatic eulogy of Der Fuehrer; for this meeting, as he pointed out, was being held chiefly to commemorate Hitler's 51st birthday, which had been celebrated in Germany on April 20. A UFA newsreel with scenes



from Nazi Germany was shown and received with much applause.

"Oppose the Anti-Lynching Bill"

A similar meeting, with slightly more native trimmings, was held on April 29 at the Dante Alighieri Hall under the auspices of the Anti-Communist Society. The main topic of the evening was "America in Danger." A Mr. William Meyer "of New York," who was the chief speaker, pointed out that America's danger emanates entirely from Communist activity; this, he observed, was synonymous with Jewish activity. The solution proposed for this country was to follow immediately the course taken by Germany, Italy and Spain. "It took Hitler eleven years to do it; Mussolini did it in four; Franco in three," said Meyer. He then expressed the hope that the United States might accomplish the same task in even less time.

In the discussion following Mr. Meyer's speech, progressive political measures were attacked; among them, interestingly enough, the questions of Government Housing Projects and the Anti-Lynching Bill. The organizers of the meeting, as a matter of fact, seemed particularly concerned with the latter topic; for the announcement of the meeting carried the slogan: "Oppose the Anti-Lynching Bill."

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KLAN COLLECTS FOR "PASSPORTS"

Other Fees Enrich the Group's Treasury

The issuance of special "passports" certifying the night-riding members as "citizens of the Klan," is the latest organizational measure of the Ku Kluxers. The fees collected from the Kluxers are now \$3.00 paid by old members wishing reinstatement and \$10 paid by new applicants. Other fees enriching the Klan's treasury are the prices paid for the robes officially recognized by the headquarters as the only "true costume." The high command of the Ku Klux Klan has issued a special catalogue listing the various night-gown uniforms for Genii, Dragons, Hydra, Great Titans, Furies, Terrors and other ranks of the organization. The prices range from \$3.00 for a plain Klansman's costume, to \$24 for a Special Terror's gown-and-hood, and \$45 for the gold and white outfit adorning a Grand Dragon.

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COUGHLIN OFF THE AIR

Coughlinites Distressed

Father Coughlin went off the air, altering his original intention to cut for the summer months his regular Sunday broadcast from the customary hour to a half-hour. The latest decision is to be off the radio waves completely, staying away until October and possibly November, thus sacrificing the summer of 1940 which is considered a most strategic time to a demagogue. His followers throughout the country are reported to be puzzled, saddened and confused by this development.

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Through the Hourglass

BY MICHAEL SAYERS

THE UNITY PARTY

The so-called "Unity Party" was organized a short time ago. Its offices were in a little, paper-littered room in a ramshackle building; a few sticks of old furniture and sacks stuffed

with anti-Semitic literature constituted the office equipment. Last week The Hour described the nature of this new party, which proclaimed its intention of uniting anti-Semitic and alien-baiting organizations in New York City and Brooklyn under the slogan of driving the Jews out of political office. It would be foolish to attribute too much importance to this party. As a matter of fact, it has turned out to be a particularly anemic kind of fascistic toadstool. For, unknown to the public, within the last few days the "Unity Party" has quietly passed out of existence. It withered very suddenly in the light of public attention when a metropolitan newspaper published the criminal record of Burke, the state director of the party. On the other hand, because the "Unity Party" is a specimen of the organizations which are flourishing nowadays, it is worth while to reflect on its character.

In the first place, we may note that, in keeping with the nature of such organizations, men with criminal records figured prominently in its make-up. A second point we may note is that the "Unity Party" was connected with other fascistic and anti-Semitic groups, such as the Christian Mobilizers and the Christian Front. Thirdly, and perhaps this is the most interesting point of all, the very fact that such organizations are constantly coming into existence indicates a source of money and support for them. Today, it seems, almost any ex-criminal or racketeer has only to declare himself an anti-Semite, and immediately he is in a position to tap a source of money, to set up an office, and distribute quantities of printed literature.

Similar conditions obtained in Germany in the years following the last war. Organizations devoted to "patriotic" and anti-Semitic doctrines sprang up on every side. The names of most of them are now forgotten. The men who founded them are forgotten, too. Ex-criminals, petty gangsters, demoted army officers, professional trouble-makers, hysterics, and crackpots founded hundreds of parties and movements. Anonymous and powerful interests in the Germany of that time encouraged them, supported them, and saw to it that they were not over-troubled by the government or by the local police. Finally, the combined effort of all these organizations brought into existence the National Socialist Party of Adolf Hitler, which united them, disciplined them, and welded them into an insuperable force.

These facts are familiar enough. In America today attempts are being made to utilize the atmosphere of ever-spreading war to bring into being a native political organization similar to that of Adolph Hitler. Our native fascists are secretly meeting, desperately trying to arrive at some common plan of action, some vast unification of all their scattered movements. Although each one of them preaches the same doctrine of race-hate and anti-democracy, yet so far they have not been able to agree, for the simple reason that each petty leader dreams of himself as the Leader of them all. Also, they are torn and divided between their natural sympathy for Nazism, and their realization that a United States at war would provide them with their greatest opportunities. In its present split and scattered form American fascism, in spite of the support it is receiving from influential citizens, is not immediately dangerous. But neither was the German split and scattered fascist movement in 1919. That is why the insignificant "Unity Party" of New York and Brooklyn, which was begotten and died off within two weeks, is nevertheless worth remembering.

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